

Message Text

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EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDSL

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, CH, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH CINETHEODOLITES TO CHINA - IL 1502

REFS: A) OECD PARIS 28288, B) COCOM DOC. (72) 2528

1. IN PERSONAL VISIT OCTOBER 6, FRENCH DEL ALLEX STATED HIS AUTHORITIES COULD NOT GIVE FINAL ANSWER TO US QUERIES BEFORE EXPORT CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING NEXT WEEK, BUT WOULD DO SO IN NEXT THREE TO FOUR WEEKS. HE EXPLAINED IT WAS HARD TO GET NECESSARY INFORMATION FROM CHINESE. MEANWHILE HE ASKED USDEL TO CONVEY TO WASHINGTON HIS EARNEST REQUEST THAT WE NOT BRING IT UP IN SUBCOMMITTEE. FRENCH FELT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO AIR IT IN THAT FORUM, HE SAID. IF WE PERSISTED IN DOING SO, OUR ACTION WOULD NOT GO DOWN VERY WELL WITH THE FRENCH, AND THEY WOULD "DRAW THE CONSEQUENCES THAT RESULTED." ASKED WHAT THESE MIGHT BE, HE WAS UNABLE TO BE MORE PRECISE.

2. AFTER REVIEWING HISTORY OF CASE, WITH EMPHASIS ON CONDITIONS SET BY US FOR ITS APPROVAL, USDEL OBSERVED THAT IT WAS HARD FOR HIM TO PRESENT ANY ARGUMENTS TO HIS AUTHORITIES FOR NOT AIRING MATTER IN SUBCOMMITTEE. FROM DISCUSSIONS SO FAR WITH ALLEX AND HIS PREDECESSOR DUMONT, USDEL COULD ONLY CONCLUDE THAT ABOUT ALL
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FRENCH COULD NOW OFFER WOULD BE CHINESE CON-

FIRMATION, UNVERIFIED BY FRENCH TECHNICIANS, THAT SECOND AND THIRD INSTRUMENTS HAD BEEN INSTALLED AT AN AIRFIELD THAT WE DID NOT CONSIDER TO BE A CIVIL ONE. AFTER RECALLING THAT WE HAD SAID NOTHING ABOUT IT FOR TWO YEARS, DEL UNDERLINED AGAIN EXTREME GRAVITY WITH WHICH WE VIEWED THIS CASE AND THE WAY IT HAD BEEN HANDLED. IN SUM, HE COULD OFFER NO ASSURANCES THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD FOREBEAR TO RAISE IT IN SUBCOMMITTEE.

3. COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE, THOUGH IMPROBABLE, THAT FRENCH MAY WALK OUT OF SUBCOMMITTEE IF WE DO RAISE MATTER THERE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THEY CAN GAIN ANYTHING BY SO DOING, SINCE OTHER DELEGATIONS SHARE OUR BELIEF FRENCH HAVE BEEN COUNTENANCING VIOLATIONS OF EMBARGO IN OTHER TRANSACTIONS.
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